



**FORT MYERS BEACH
JOINT TOWN COUNCIL/ CRAB
WORK SESSION**

Town Hall – Council Chambers
2523 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, April 4, 2012 – 9:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Kiker called to order the April 4, 2012 Joint Work Session of the Fort Myers Beach Town Council and CRAB at 9:00 a.m. Present along with Mayor Kiker: Vice Mayor Raymond, Council Members Kosinski, and List; Council Member Mandel was excused. BORCAB Members present were: Chair Miffie Greer, Member Olga Carbello were present; Members Hendry, Ludvigsen and Kemp were absent. Also Present: Town Manager Stewart, Community Development Director Fluegel, and Town Clerk Mayher.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. BEACH ACCESS PROJECTS

Chair Greer expressed appreciation to CRAB's advisory person, Josh Overmyer. She reported the Board had one vacancy due to the resignation of a member and requested the Town Clerk advertise accordingly.

4. BAY ACCESS PROJECTS

Chair Greer stated the Board had been working on the beach and bay accesses for over a year and requested further direction.

Council Member Mandel noted an article that appeared in one of today's newspapers regarding bathrooms and the beach accesses that reported the County wanted to construct

bathrooms at Crescent Park, and mentioned the request from the Town to the TDC for beach and bay accesses.

Town Manager Stewart explained that Council had asked staff to continue to work on the subject of beach access through CRAB. He stated there had been a few people who have requested assistance on bay accesses and staff was working with those people; however, staff was focusing mainly on the Gulf accesses to come up with a common plan of how they needed to be designed. He explained the project was a 'multi-year' project because the bulk of the funding would hopefully come from the TDC. He pointed out that the Town had requested funds from TDC to assist with surveying and they were awaiting a decision.

Discussion was held concerning the number of accesses and potential improvement costs; the TDC approval and reimbursement process; and the TDC funding cycles.

Chair Greer noted CRAB had prioritized the accesses, and had selected and recommended two accesses to be done first.

Discussion was held regarding the need for public input and consent prior to commencement of any access improvements; and potential concerns that might be raised by the CAC.

Consensus was that CRAB would continue with their work related to the two beach accesses they prioritized; CRAB would contact the surrounding residents to obtain input and support; and that the work to be done was published to make people aware of CRAB's work.

Chair Greer questioned the status of the bay accesses.

Consensus of Council was for CRAB to place those accesses 'on hold'.

Town Manager Stewart reported there were some bay accesses where people in the neighborhood had expressed to the Town an interest in obtaining assistance with fixing and cleaning up the accesses.

Discussion ensued regarding neighborhoods that have expressed an interest in bay access improvements; lack of signage for bay access to the public; possible bay access improvements at the Bay Oaks; and using the access site on the north side of

DiamondHead where the new bathroom was installed to demonstrate to stakeholders the type of improvements CRAB planned to accomplish.

Discussion was held concerning the benefits of the Town using a ‘public information officer’.

Town Manager Stewart questioned if there was a sufficient amount of work of that nature to keep a person busy all the time, and suggested that the responsibilities of a ‘public information officer’ could be combined with another position’s responsibilities. He noted that if it was Council’s desire to obtain more information about a ‘public information officer’ this would be the best time to investigate the matter at this point in the budget cycle.

Council Member Mandel suggested the Town investigate contracting with a public relations firm.

Town Manager Stewart pointed out that the Town was about to start on same major projects (i.e. water system rebuild) which would need public relations.

Vice Mayor Raymond suggested Chair Greer to send any potential public relations articles she may write to the Town Manager prior to publication.

5. ARTS & CULTURE PROJECT

Council Member Mandel explained that Council had decided to ask CRAB to review “Arts & Culture”.

Discussion ensued regarding the aspects of “Arts & Culture”.

Town Manager Stewart stated it appeared to him that CELCAB already dealt with these types of issues.

Council Member Mandel noted there were two upcoming firework events and some other community events coming to the beach and he believed Council was seeking for a recommendation on how to approach these events.

Discussion was held concerning CELCAB and CRAB and which should analyze the Town’s involvement in certain community events (i.e. staff time, funding, banners, etc.).

Mayor Kiker suggested that CELCAB and CRAB have a joint meeting, or CRAB assign a representative to meet with CELCAB to determine which committee wanted to address the subject.

Town Manager Stewart pointed out it appeared there were two topics – the Town’s support of the arts and culture in the community, and what type of policy the Town should have for making decisions regarding what and how they support it.

Discussion ensued concerning the type of art and cultural events in the community the Town could support and a policy for how the event could be supported; and the functions and responsibilities of CRAB and CELCAB.

Town Clerk Mayher reported that the ordinance which created CELCAB stated “*their duties shall be in general to advise the Town Council on the management and operation of the Mound House property in an efficient and satisfactory manner...*”.

Town Manager Stewart stated the Council was asking for CRAB’s recommendation on policies or criteria about how to decide which requests for Town support of an event or program.

Discussion ensued regarding the type of events or programs that CRAB should consider when creating guidelines (i.e. requests from Lions Club, Kiwanis); and it was noted that CELCAB was close to completing their work on the Mound House; therefore, consensus was not to ask CELCAB to take on any other work at this time.

Discussion was held regarding CRAB to include the Town’s ‘availability of funds’ when creating the guidelines.

6. OTHER SPECIAL PROJECTS

Discussion ensued on special projects; and consensus was there were no other special projects that Council wanted CRAB to pursue at this time.

Chair Greer reported CRAB had already begun to investigate the idea of a ‘community garden’.

Member Carbello reported she was working on that concept and would bring her report to the CRAB meeting tomorrow. She explained what a community garden was and it would be recommended to involve the Beach Elementary students with the project.

Council Member List reported the School's Youth Council voted to have a community garden at the school. She announced the Youth Council had requested another joint meeting with Council before the end of the school term.

Member Carbello stated there were plots available at Bay Oaks to use for a community garden.

Mayor Kiker reported that in the past the Chair of each Town committee/board would hold a joint meeting to exchange information. He suggested the Town Manager organize the meeting with the various chairs.

7. CRAB MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

No items or reports.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment opened.

Misey Mayfield, resident, suggested when CRAB was speaking to the people interested in the beach and bay accesses it was important to realize that the people who use the accesses do not live around them. She added that usually it was people who were visiting or lived a distance away from the accesses that wanted something done.

Public Comment closed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Adopted _____ With/Without changes. Motion by _____

Vote: _____

Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk

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